

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Shuji SONEZAKI, et al

Application No.: 10/551,071

Group No.: 1754

Filed: June 29, 2006

Examiner: Chun Cheng Wang

For: SURFACE-MODIFIED TITANIUM DIOXIDE FINE PARTICLES AND
DISPERSION COMPRISING THE SAME, AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING
THE SAME

Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.97(e)

NOTE: A statement must state either: "(1) that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement, or (2) that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in Section 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement." 37 C.F.R. Section 1.97(e).

Under the first statement under § 1.97(e), it does not matter whether any individual with a duty of disclosure actually knew about any of the information cited before receiving the search report. The date on the communication by the foreign patent office begins the 3-month period in the same manner as the mailing of an Office action starts a 3-month shortened statutory period for reply. See § 609B(3), M.P. E. P., 8th Edition.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a) and 1.10*

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Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

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37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

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37 C.F.R. 1.10*

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Date: March 5, 2009

Signature

JANET L. CORD

(type or print name of person certifying)

* Only the date filing (§ 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 continue to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (§ 1.10) or facsimile transmission (§ 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

NOTE: "Section 1.97(e) makes it clear that a certification could contain either of two statements. One statement is that each item of information in an information disclosure statement was cited in a search report from a patent office outside the U.S. not more than three months prior to the filing date of the statement. Under this certification, it would not matter whether any individual with a duty actually knew about any of the information cited before receiving the search report. In the alternative, the certification could state that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual having a duty to disclose more than three months prior to the filing of the statement." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 13. (emphasis added). Thus: "If an item of information is submitted within three months of being cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, the certification can be properly made regardless of any individual's previous knowledge of the information." *Id.*, 1135 O.G. at 19. See § 609B(5), M.P.E.P., 8th Edition.

NOTE: "The date on the communication by the foreign patent office begins the 3-month period in the same manner as the mailing of an Office action starts a 3-month shortened statutory period for reply. If the communication contains two dates, the mailing date of the communication is the one which begins the 3-month period. The date which begins the 3-month period is not the date the communication was received by a foreign associate or the date it was received by a U.S. registered practitioner. Likewise, the statement will be considered to have been filed on the date the statement was received in the Office, or on an earlier date of mailing or transmission if accompanied by a properly executed certificate of mailing or facsimile transmission under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, or if it is in compliance with the provisions for "Express Mail" delivery under 37 C.F.R. 1.10." See § 609B(5), M.P.E.P., 8th Edition.

NOTE: "The certification can be based on present, good faith knowledge about when information became known without a search of files being made." Thus, for example, the certification of § 1.97(e) does not preclude the use of the certification in an application by corporations whose practitioners have over the years reviewed thousands of patents and technical publications even though they are unaware of the relevance of any one thereof to the application. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-15, at 19.

See § 609B(5), M.P.E.P., 8th Edition:

"If an information disclosure statement includes a copy of a dated communication from a foreign patent office which clearly shows that the statement is being submitted within 3 months of the date on the communication, the copy will be accepted as the required communication. It will be assumed, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the communication was for a counterpart foreign application.

In the alternative, a statement can be made if no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, neither was it known to any individual having a duty to disclose more than 3 months prior to the filing of the statement."

NOTE: A copy of the foreign search report need not be submitted with the certification. Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 40).

NOTE: "The phrase 'after making reasonable inquiry' makes it clear that the individual making the certification has a duty to make reasonable inquiry regarding the facts that are being certified. The certification can be made by a registered practitioner who represents a foreign client and who relies on statements made by the foreign client as to the date the information first became known. A registered practitioner who receives information from a client without being informed whether the information was known for more than three months, however, cannot make the certification without making reasonable inquiry. For example, if an inventor gave a publication to the attorney prosecuting an application with the intent that it be cited to the Office, the attorney should inquire as to when that inventor became aware of the publication and should not submit a certification under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2) to the Office until a satisfactory response is received. The certification can be based on present, good faith knowledge about when information became known without a search of files being made." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

See § 609B(5), M.P.E.P., 8th Edition.

NOTE: "Although it is recognized that an individual actually becomes aware of the information in the communication from a foreign patent office sometime after it was mailed, the mailing date of such a communication, if it occurs prior to a first awareness of the same information, would determine the date for filing of an information disclosure statement without a fee" in a certification procedure under Section 1.97(e). Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 19 (emphasis added).

NOTE: The mere absence of an item of information for a foreign patent office communication is not intended to represent an opportunity to delay the submission of a item known more than three months prior to the filing of an information disclosure statement to an individual having the duty of disclosure under Section 1.56. 62 Fed. Reg. 53,131, 53,150 (Oct. 10, 1997).

NOTE: The IDS is considered filed as of the date it is received in the PTO, or on an earlier date of mailing of transmission if done so with a properly executed certificate of mailing or facsimile transmission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, or if it is in compliance with the provisions for "Express Mail" delivery under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10. See § 609B(5), M.P.E.P., 8th Edition.

NOTE: "The certification under Section 1.97(e) should be made by a person who has knowledge of the facts being certified. The certification can be made by a practitioner who represents a foreign client and who relies on statements made by the foreign client as to the date the information first became known. A practitioner who receives information from a client without being informed whether the information was known for more than three months, however, cannot make the certification without making reasonable inquiry." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25 at 19.

NOTE: "The term counterpart foreign patent application means that a claim for priority has been made in either the U.S. application or a foreign application based on the other, or that the disclosures of the U.S. and foreign patent applications are substantively identical (e.g., an application filed in the European Patent Office claiming the same U.K. priority as claimed in the U.S. application)." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

NOTE: "Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent or inventor." 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56(d) and

"Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) each inventor named in the application;*
- (2) each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and*
- (3) every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application." 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56(c).*

IDENTIFICATION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FOR WHICH THIS STATEMENT IS BEING MADE

1. This statement is being made for the Information Disclosure Statement

☒ accompanying this statement.

☐ filed _____.

Date

STATEMENT

2. I, the person(s) signing below state:

that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was **first** cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. 37 C.F.R. Section 1.97(e)(1).

NOTE: The three month period starts from the mailing date of the foreign patent office communication. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25 at 19. The mailing date is the "date on the communication by the foreign patent office." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

OR

that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in Section 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. 37 C.F.R. Section 1.97(e)(2).

NOTE: "The time at which information 'was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c)' is the time when the information was discovered in association with the application even if awareness of the materiality came later." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 40).

IDENTIFICATION OF PERSON(S) MAKING THIS STATEMENT

3. The person making this statement is

(check each applicable item)

- (a) ☐ the inventor(s) who signs below

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR

(type name of inventor who is signing)

- (b) ☐ a person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application, and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee, or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application (37 C.F.R. Section 1.56(c)) and who signs below.

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

(type name of person who is signing)

Address of person who is signing

- (c) ☒ the practitioner who signs below on the basis of the information:

(check each applicable item)

- ☒ supplied by the inventor(s).
☒ supplied by an individual designated in Section 1.56(c).
☐ in the practitioner's file.

Reg. No.: 30,086

SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

CLIFFORD J. MASS

(type or print name of practitioner)

Tel. No.: (212) 708-1890

Customer No.:



00140

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Address

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26 West 61st Street
New York, N.Y. 10023

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Shuji SONEZAKI, et al

Serial No.: 10/551,071

Group No.: 1796

Filed: June 29, 2006

Examiner: Chun Cheng Wang

For: SURFACE-MODIFIED TITANIUM DIOXIDE FINE PARTICLES AND DISPERSION
COMPRISING THE SAME, AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

Attorney Docket No.: U 015953-2

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

We draw the attention of the Examiner to the attached English-language version of
Supplemental European Search Report from a foreign office in respect of counterpart
EP Application No. 04 72 4741 that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.
The Search Report makes consideration of any non-English art required. MPEP 609.04(a)III.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a) and 1.10*

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JANET I. CORD

(type or print name of person certifying)

Date: March 5, 2009

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"Since the filing of correspondence under § 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will **not** be granted on petition." Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.

Form PTO-1449 is also attached with reference copies.

Respectfully submitted,

Clifford J. Mass

CLIFFORD J. MASS

C/O LADAS AND PARRY LLP

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